

routing information and determining if there is a corresponding bar code in the database.

20. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of accessing comprises the steps of:

transmitting information extracted from the bar code to an intermediate location on the network;

providing an associative database at the intermediate location, which associative database has stored therein the plurality of bar codes and associated routing information;

comparing the information extracted from the bar code received at the intermediate location with the database; and

if there is a corresponding bar code in the database to the extracted information in the bar code, returning the routing information to the user's location.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated January 29, 2002 and respectfully note that formal drawings that include the necessary corrections were received in the U.S. Patent and trademark Office April 23, 2002. Further, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept and added new Claims 11-20 directed toward an alternative embodiment of the present invention. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully point out that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) mailed September 27, 2000, and received in the Patent and Trademark Office October 3, 2000 has not been noted on the *Office Action summary*, form PTO-326, in item (3) of "Attachments" nor has the Form PTO-1449 submitted by Applicants been initialed by the Examiner. Applicants request the entry of this IDS and the consideration of the references listed therein.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

S/N 09/382,425

Atty. Dkt. No. PHL-24,734

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Perkowski* (U.S. 5,918,214A). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The Examiner indicates in the rejection that *Perkowski* teaches a method for interfacing the user location on a network and specifically discloses the step of scanning a bar code having product information, the Examiner referring to the description in Column 3, lines 12-20. Applicants respectfully note that the *Perkowski* '214 patent at Column 3, beginning at line 12, provides for access of a predesignated information resource through the steps of "pressing its IPSI Finder button *then entering* the UPS or USN numeric string into a dialog box which pops up on an Internet Browser." (Emphasis added) It can be seen that there is no step of scanning; rather, this is merely a way for the UPS to be manually entered into the system. Applicants' present invention, in contradistinction to the *Perkowski* '214 patent, utilizes a system that allows the user to scan the bar code and, in direct response to scanning of the bar code, the information in the bar code related to the product is extracted therefrom, the interconnection path to the destination location defined and, after the path has been defined, the user location is connected to the destination location. This operation of extracting and defining the path and interconnecting to the location is achieved in direct response to the operation of scanning without user intervention. As such, the *Perkowski* '214 patent does not anticipate or obviate Applicants' present inventive concept, as it fails to, first and foremost, show the step of scanning and, further, does not illustrate the step of automatically or directly interconnecting the user location to the destination location in response to the step of scanning. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 1-10.

The Examiner has also noted that the *Perkowski* U.S. Patent Nos. 5,950,173A and 6,064,979A are both related. However, the Examiner has not provided copies of these references nor have they been cited by the Examiner. However, Applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 27, 2000 with the Patent and Trademark Office in this case disclose those two references. Applicants again respectfully request the Examiner to enter all of the references associated with that IDS into the record such that they will be considered by the Examiner.

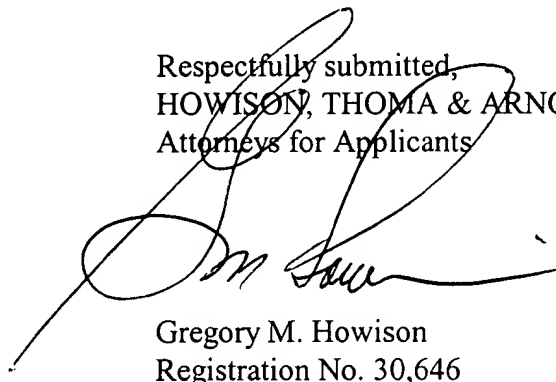
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Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/PHLY-24,734 of HOWISON, THOMA & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory M. Howison', is written over the typed name and firm name.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A method for interfacing a user location on a network to a destination location on the network, comprising the steps of:

scanning a bar code having product information contained therein relating to an associated product, which bar code has no network routing information contained therein;

extracting product information [contained within] from the bar code; defining routing information over the network from the user location to the destination location in direct response to the steps of scanning and extracting, which routing information defines the location of the destination location on the network; and

interconnecting the user location to the destination location in accordance with the defined routing information, which step of interconnecting occurs in direct response to the steps of scanning, extracting and defining with no user intervention after the step of scanning.

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, [and] further [the] comprising the steps of receiving information from the destination location in response to interconnecting thereto and displaying the received information.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of defining [the] routing information comprises defining a universal resource locator (URL) of the destination location over the network in direct response to the step of scanning and extracting.

9. (Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of determining the existence of predetermined association comprises the step of accessing a database of a plurality of predetermined associations between a plurality of bar codes and associated routing information and determining if there is a corresponding bar code

5 in the database.

10. (Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of accessing comprises the steps of:

transmitting [the extracted] information extracted from the bar code to an intermediate location on the network;

5 providing an associative database at the intermediate location, which associative database has stored therein the plurality of bar codes and associated routing information;

comparing the [extracted] information [in] extracted from the bar code received at the intermediate location with the database; and

10 if there is a corresponding bar code in the database to the extracted information in the bar code, returning the routing information to the user's location.